

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE OF MONTANA

BRIAN SCHWEITZER  
GOVERNOR



JOHN BOHLINGER  
LT. GOVERNOR

September 2008

Students and Teachers:

We hope this finds all of you enjoying our lovely September weather and making great progress as you begin the new school year.

For the fourth year, we are pleased to invite you to participate in a Holiday tree display in Montana's magnificent Capitol Building. The response during the past three years was gratifying and remarkable. You all outdid yourselves artistically and creatively. We were so proud to show off your talent and effort. Our 56 trees, one for each county in Montana, are carefully stored away waiting to again be adorned with your ornaments and decorations.

As you may know, the Bitterroot National Forest was selected to provide the U.S. Capitol Tree for 2008. A fine Montana tree (more than 60 feet tall) will stand proudly in front of the U.S. Capitol in Washington D.C. this holiday season. An additional 70 smaller trees will accompany the Capitol Tree and be shared with Congressional and other federal offices. I hope you'll be pleased to learn that all the decorations from last season's county trees were donated to the Bitterroot National Forest and may find their way to Washington DC this year to decorate those smaller trees. You have until October 15<sup>th</sup> to turn in more decorations for the Capitol Trees, please check the website for further information: <http://www.capitolchristmastree2008.org/>

In keeping with the theme for the U.S. Capitol Tree, "Sharing Montana's Treasures," we encourage you to create decorations for our own Montana Capitol 56 county trees that demonstrate our pride in our country and explain "Why I'm proud to be a Montanan."

A sheet with more specific information for teachers is attached. If you have any questions please call Sheena Wilson at 406-444-5503 or email her at [swilson@mt.gov](mailto:swilson@mt.gov). We hope every elementary school child in Montana and their terrific teachers will help us with this project again this year.

Those of you who live close enough to Helena or are traveling to visit family and friends over the holiday should plan a visit to see the display, it's an impressive sight. We'll make sure to get photos again and post them on our website for those of you who don't get to Helena.

Thank you in advance for your help. We're all eager to once again make the Capitol a holiday showcase for Montana's kids.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Schweitzer".

BRIAN SCHWEITZER  
Governor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nancy Schweitzer".

Nancy Schweitzer  
First Lady

## **HOLIDAY TREES FOR MONTANA'S CAPITOL**

### **Teacher's Guide**

1. The trees are 8 foot artificial trees. The branches will not hold large, heavy ornaments.
2. Please see the theme suggestion in the letter, but we're counting on the imagination of your students, keeping in mind the logistics of getting the decorations to the Governor's Office in Helena.
3. Please use the materials already available to you; we expect typical student art work, not anything elaborate requiring additional resources on your part.
4. Please consider coordinating this project within your school or county to avoid duplication, to combine postage, and to manage quantity and size.
5. Please remind students it may not be possible to fit every ornament on the tree. It is our plan to offer the extra ornaments to Capitol visitors as a memento. No ornaments will be returned; last year's ornaments were donated to the U.S. Capitol Tree project:  
<http://www.capitolchristmastree2008.org/>
6. Please include a note or card to identify your county, school, and classroom.
7. Please send the decorations before November 14th so we can have the trees ready for Thanksgiving holiday visitors, but don't worry, we'll keep adding ornaments until the trees come down after the holidays.
8. Please send the decorations to:

Governor Brian Schweitzer  
P. O. Box 200801  
Capitol Station  
Helena, Montana 59620-0801

8. Questions? Sheena Wilson: 444-5503 or [swilson@mt.gov](mailto:swilson@mt.gov)

**THANK YOU!**